

Volume 9, Edition 5

May

# Valley of the Moon Amateur Radio Club WIRELESS



2005



# **VOMARC HAMFEST CREW SLAVING AWAY!**

***YOU CAN TELL BY JUST LOOKING HOW BADLY OUR  
VOLUNTEERS WERE ABUSED***

## **FROM THE TOP OF THE HILL**

A big thank-you to all who helped with this year's hamfest. Everyone seemed to have a good time and attendance was good. I put a little over a thousand dollars in the bank. We should net over \$500.

It was a good idea to invite the emergency vehicles. It drew a lot of attention, as well as informing the community of amateur radio's emergency communications capabilities. Again, my appreciation to all of those who participated.

This month's meeting on the 18th will be at McDougal Hall. The main topic of discussion will be getting ready for Field day, which is on June 25 and 26. We will be at Maxwell Park like last year. Hopefully we can work out our logging difficulties and be able to submit a log for scoring.

The HF bands are still in the doldrums, but surprises do occur. I have been on PSK-31 most of the time, but most of the contacts have been stateside. The Caribbean and South America are easy to work in the late afternoon.

The Texas legislature has a bill pending that would amend the

utilities code to "encourage the deployment of BPL" by electric utilities. This comes after an Irving, Texas BPL pilot project that was the target of an ARRL complaint was shut down last March. If this technology isn't stopped, we could see such interference on the HF band that would render them useless for communications. I wish more of you could have heard our division leader, Bob Vallio, W6RGG, speak on the subject at the hamfest.

Take a look at the ARRL website, (<http://www.arrl.org/hamradio.html>), if you are looking for ideas to convince someone to join the hobby.

Thanks to the media class at Hanna Boys Center for inviting me to be interviewed for their program on KSVY. They have expressed some interest in getting ham radio at the center.

If you are interested in amateur satellites, here is another one for you. Its called HAMSAT and is India's first.

Here are the particulars. The micro-sat will provide two new linear mode U/V transponders for SSB and CW use only. Only one transponder will be active at any given time. The uplink passband is 435.225-435.275

MHz (LSB), and the downlink is 145.875-145.925 MHz (USB). An unmodulated carrier has been reported on 145.936 MHz, and a CW telemetry beacon on 145.860 MHz.

I have always been interested in regenerative receivers, but I haven't built one successfully since putting one together using vacuum tubes. There is one designed by N1TEV that I built using all solid state. It seems to work OK. Wondering if anyone would like to build one. The boards are available at FAR circuits. Could be a nice club project??

That's about all for this month. Remember, it's all about communication.

73, Jim

#### **NOTE FROM THE VICE PRESIDENT**

Thanks for the nice card that was sent on your behalves while I was in the hospital early this month. All's well, and sorry I missed the breakfast. I thought about all who were enjoying their favorite solid food, while mine was in the form of a liquid dripping down a tube. I will be looking forward to see all on Wednesday the 18th at McDougal Hall.

#### **73's, Dan, KG6LJN VOMARC VE SESSION REPORT**

Here is the report for the last VE session.

Candidates = 14  
New Technicians = 8  
New Generals = 2 (One upgrade and one from scratch)  
New Extras = 1 (Upgrade from General)

Total of all elements taken = 22 (15 passed - 7 failures)

Only three candidates failed to advance or become new hams.

All in all a very good session.

Joel, NN6J

#### **EUREKA HAMFEST IN JUNE**

Plan to attend the Redwood Coast Amateur Radio Convention in Ferndale this June 3, 4 and 5. The event is held at the Humboldt County fairgrounds. The program includes an ARRL forum, VE testing, T-hunt, hourly prize drawings, women's programs and seminars. Saturday night will feature a banquet. The admission is only \$4.00 a day. Contact Marci, KE6IAU at 707-442-3866 or [conven05@humboldt-arc.org](mailto:conven05@humboldt-arc.org). I have more details and registration forms. Call 935-7441 or [jill@vom.com](mailto:jill@vom.com)

73, Jim, K6UUW

#### **VOMARC MINUTES APRIL 20, 2005**

The meeting was called to order at 7:40PM. There were 21 in attendance.

There was a guest, Bob, KG6NFE. Welcome Bob.

The minutes were approved as published in the newsletter.

Treasurer's report: There is about \$1100 in the bank.

The only correspondence this month was the SCRA newsletter.

SuitSat report: Things are moving along. The second board has been built.

Solar Panels: Scott will come help.

VE Session: Things are looking good for the VE Session.

Net Control: Steve Marler is net control for May. There are two slots available. If you wish to be net control, contact Jim Hill, K6UUW to volunteer.

The ham class virtually evaporated. However, there is one student who took the book home and studied and is ready to take the test at the VE Session held during the Ham Fest.

Ham Fest Planning: The early shift for the kitchen staff has been filled. There are more volunteers needed for the late shift. Set up will start at 3:30PM on Friday. The goal is to have all supplies ready for the kitchen staff to walk in Sat AM & start cooking. Jim & Ed will do the shopping for the breakfast

supplies. Anyone without a definite assignment is asked to volunteer to take orders from and deliver breakfasts to the vendors. Eileen will be the jack-of-all-trades. If anyone needs something, contact Eileen and she will see that the request is filled. Ed Cain will do the talk in. Jim Hill will be in charge of demos. Do take advantage of the demos so you can practice packet etc. There will be five EMCOM vehicles on display and there will be presentations on the function of the vehicles. The Sonoma public safety officials have been invited to the breakfast. There will be no charge to them. There have been a couple requests for reservations for inside vendor tables.

ACS: No new business. The Sonoma Valley Hospital had a phone system emergency where all the phones went down. This could have resulted in activation of ACS to provide communication for the hospital. These are the types of things for which ACS needs to be ready.

Other Business: May 1st is the Tour d' Cure. The organizers of the event are looking for volunteers to help with communications. If you wish to volunteer, contact Andrew, KE6HID.

Jan Bush volunteered to work in Monterey for the Laguna Seca biking event. The organizers of this event put up their own repeater. Badger Mountain Ski Patrol provided the EMT

support. The Red Cross was involved also. Hams were utilized only on Saturday and Sunday even though the event is a four-day event.

There was a question as to whether the Marin county events can be listed in the VOMARC newsletter.

Field Day: Question: Do we have the county approval yet? Joan has submitted the paperwork and needs to call Jill to determine the status of the paperwork. She just finished the paperwork for the Ham Fest after many back and forth calls to the county yesterday. Everything is finally in order for the Hamfest.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:40PM and the program for the evening commenced. The program was presented by Ken McTaggart, N6KM, and was a demonstration and explanation of WINLINK.

Respectfully submitted,

Joan Brady, W6WXU,  
Secretary

## **CALENDAR**

Upcoming events you might be interested in are:

Meetings, 7:30 pm (1930 local):  
May 18, McDougal Hall  
June 15  
July 20  
August 17  
September 21  
October 19

November 23  
December Xmas party to be determined

Club Breakfasts, 9:30 am (0930 local):

June 4  
July 2  
August 6  
September 3  
October 1  
November 5  
December 3

Field Day: June 25 and 26

VE Sessions, at McDougal Hall, 9 am:

August 6  
November 12

Nets:

ACS Monday evenings 1930 local (7:30 pm), 146.205 MHz +600/ PL 88.5 Hz  
VOMARC Wednesday evenings, except meeting night, 1930 (7:30 pm), 145.35 MHz -600/ PL 88.5 Hz

Hamfests/Conventions:

San Francisco Section  
Convention, Ferndale (Eureka),  
June 3, 4 and 5  
Pacificon, San Ramon, October 14 thru 16

Contests:

ARCI Hoot Owl Sprint, May 29  
ARRL VHF QSO Party, June 11 thru 13  
IARU HF World Championship, July 9 & 10  
ARCI PSK-31 Sprint, September 11  
ARRL VHF QSO Party, September 10 -11

ARCI Fall QRP QSO, October 22 - 23  
ARRL CW Sweepstakes, November 5 - 7  
ARRL Phone Sweepstakes, Nov. 19 -21  
ARRL 10 meter Contest, December 10 -11  
Straight Key Night, December 31, Jan 1

As you can see, there are many activities other than a once-a-month meeting in amateur radio. For all you VOMARC members who haven't had a radio on for a while, there are everything from HF to VHF and microwave, CW to phone to digital, sprints to weekend long contests, as well as our yearly chance to get out and operate during Field Day.

Sometimes, there are far too many demands on our time for us to steal a moment or two for our hobbies. The beauty of amateur radio is that you can brew a cup of coffee or tea, slip into the ham shack for a half hour, and operate. No getting the boat out and driving to the lake or river, no digging the camping gear out of the garage or attic and stuffing it into the car or pickup. Just turn on the radio, even if it's the handheld with a whip and battery pack, and talk to someone.

I'm as bad as most, and worse than many, at taking the time to turn on a radio. I talked to John, W6TWQ, at the hamfest, and he told me that he tries to turn on the rig and copy code as often as possible (sorry John, I can't

remember if you said every day or every week).

My often-used excuse is that I have to do something to the rig/power supply/antenna before I can operate. Yet, we tell anyone who asks that we are top notch emergency communicators who can get on the air at a moment's notice with only a piece of wire, our rig and a couple of AA batteries.

So I thought I would list a few contests, just to make the hobby fun. CU on the air!

## **THE VOMARC WIRELESS**

### **VOLUME 9 EDITION 5**

A publication of VOMARC, the Valley of the Moon Amateur Radio Club - W6AJF

Frank C. Jones - W6AJF  
Honorary President in Perpetuity

### **CAST OF CHARACTERS**

Jim Hill, K6UUW - President  
Dan Sorrick, KG6LJN- Vice-President  
Joan Brady, W6WXU - Secretary  
Ken McTaggart, N6KM - Treasurer  
Eileen Adams, KG6QNT, Membership Chair  
Mike Miller, WB6TMH - Radio Officer  
Ken McTaggart, N6KM - ACS  
Jan Bush, AE6FQ - Webmeister  
Joel Nadler, NN6J - VE Liaison  
Darrel Jones, WD6BOR - Editor

***Receipt of the Wireless is one of the most sought after benefits of membership in VOMARC.***

**CLUB MEETINGS** are held on the third Wednesday of each month, alternating between McDougal Hall at the Sonoma Developmental Center, Eldridge, and the Sonoma Fire Station, 630 2<sup>nd</sup> Street West, Sonoma. Meetings start at 19:30 local (7:30 P.M.).

**WEB PAGE:**  
<http://www.vomarc.org/>

**Nets** are held every Wednesday night at 19:30 (7:30 P.M.) local, except meeting nights on the 145.350 repeater, -600 kHz, PL 88.5 Hz.

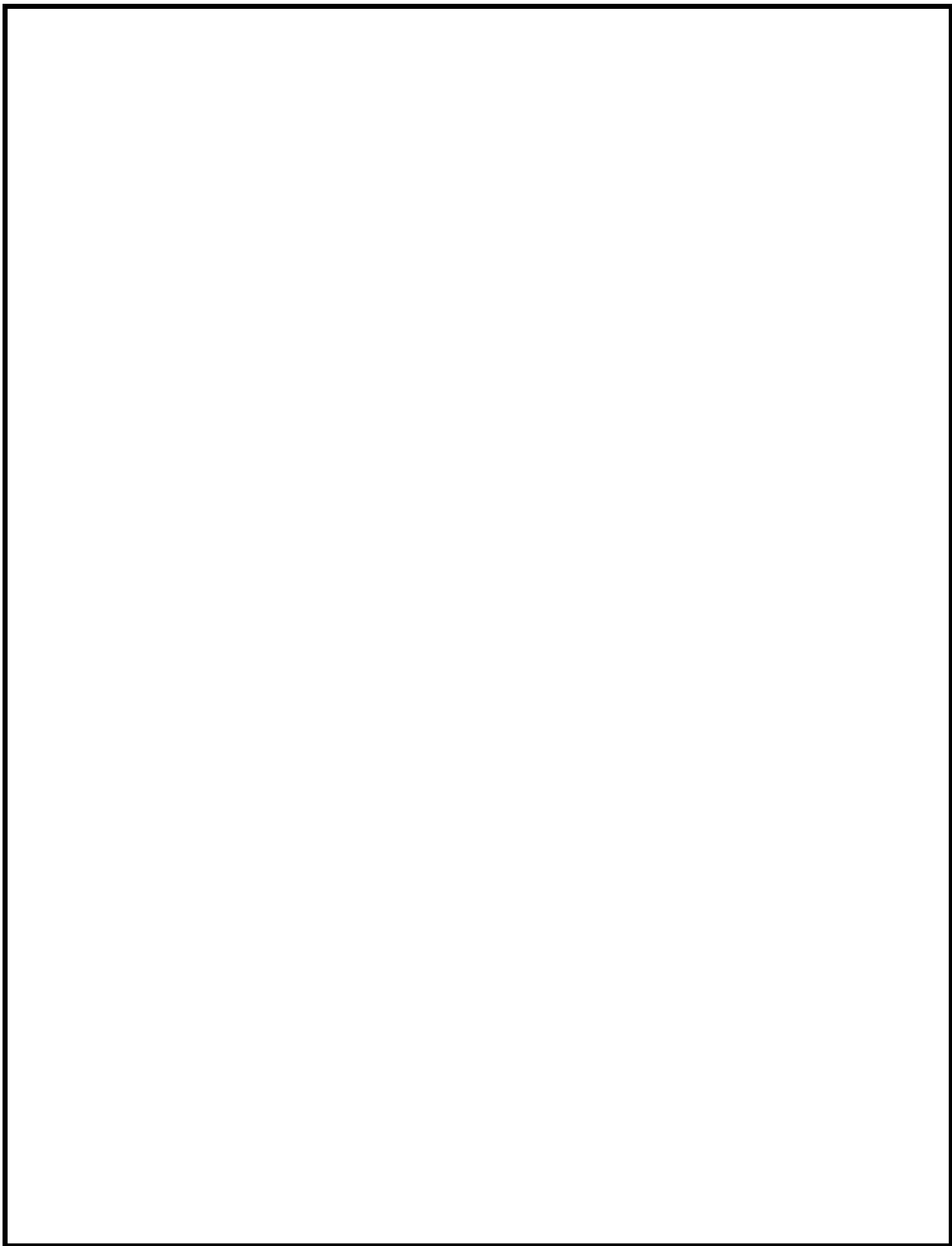
**ACS** holds a net each Monday evening at 19:30 local on the 146.205, +600, PL 88.5 Hz repeater.

**PACKET STATION INFO:** The VOMARC packet station is on 144.910 as "SNV1EC". "SNVGW" can be used as a gateway digipeating on 223.66 MHz. The node name is "SNVND".

**CLUB BREAKFASTS** are held on the first Saturday of each month at Issa's Restaurant, 18999 Sonoma Highway, Sonoma. The fun starts at 09:30 local.

Comments and submissions of material may be sent to:  
wd6bor@vom.com

**Valley of the Moon ARC, Inc.**  
175 First Street West  
Sonoma, CA 95476





**Valley of the Moon  
ARC  
1496 Nut Tree Lane  
Sonoma CA 95476**

**NOTICE!!! THE NEXT VOMARC MEETING IS  
WEDNESDAY, MAY 18, AT 7:30 P.M. AT MCDOUGAL  
HALL AT THE SONOMA DEVELOPMENTAL CENTER  
CU THERE!**

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**VOMARC MEMBERSHIP**

**VOMARC 2005**      Membership Dues:      \$15/year individual; \$5/year family member.

VOMARC encourages its members to join the ARRL. More information is available at [www.arrl.org](http://www.arrl.org).

QST is available to blind and physically handicapped individuals on audio cassette from the Library of Congress, National Library Service for the Blind and Physically Handicapped. Call 1-800-424-8567.

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ CALL: \_\_\_\_\_ EMAIL: \_\_\_\_\_  
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Address: \_\_\_\_\_ APT: \_\_\_\_\_  
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City: \_\_\_\_\_ State: \_\_\_\_\_ ZIP: \_\_\_\_\_  
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VOMARC: \$ \_\_\_\_\_

**Membership Moment, From the Database Queen**

Please check the mailing label on this newsletter. It tells you when your VOMARC dues are due. Dues may be mailed to Ken N6KM, or Jim K6UUW, 1496 Nut Tree Lane, Sonoma, CA 95476, or brought to the next meeting. If there is any mistake, please do not shoot the messenger; email Eileen KG6QNT at Eileen@vom.com. Your check should be made payable to:

**VOMARC**